AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19   (Canceled)

20. (New)   An image processing method, comprising:

detecting an edge width of an edge portion of input image data;

determining a localized conversion ratio based on the edge width, wherein the localized conversion ratio is localized to a segment of the edge portion; and

generating an output image by applying the localized conversion ratio to the input image data to convert a number of pixels in the segment of the edge portion.

21. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, said determining step determining a different localized conversion ratio for at least one segment of an edge portion of an image than for another segment of the edge portion.

22. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, said determining step determining a localized conversion ratio that is higher for leading and trailing edge segments than for a non-edge segment.

23. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, said determining step determining a localized conversion ratio that is lower for a central edge segment than for a non-edge segment.

24. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, wherein a total sum of localized conversion ratios for leading, central and trailing edge segments is zero.

25. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, said determining step variably controlling the localized conversion ratio depending upon a control pattern determined on the basis of the edge portion.

MRC/lab

26. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, said determining and applying steps determining and applying the localized conversion ratio in a horizontal direction, vertical direction or both horizontal and vertical directions.

27. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the localized conversion ratio for the horizontal direction is different than the localized conversion ratio for the vertical direction.

28. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, further comprising:

specifying an amplitude of the localized zoom ratio to adjust the edge width of the edge portion to a desired edge width.

29. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, further comprising:

detecting an edge reference position of the edge portion;

said determining step determining the localized conversion ratio based on the edge width and edge reference position.

30. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, further comprising:

variably controlling a generation period of the localized conversion ratio.

31. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, further comprising:

variably controlling a maximum and/or minimum value of the localized conversion ratio.

32. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, further comprising:

variably controlling a maximum value, minimum value, and/or generation period of the localized conversion ratio based on the edge width.

33. (New)   The image processing method according to claim 20, further comprising:

displaying the output image on a display device.

MRC/lab